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Prunus serrulata sachalinensis. Although the flowers of this tree, often called the Sargent Cherry, will have faded when this number of the Bulletin reaches its readers; it is well to call attention to it as when in flower it is the handsomest of the large trees yet introduced into the United States and Europe by the Arboretum. It was first raised here from seeds sent from Japan in 1890 by Dr. J. Sturgis Bigelow of Boston, and again in 1892 from seeds gathered in Japan by Professor Sargent. The trees raised from these seeds have flowered now for several years but never so beautifully as this year. As they produce fruit abundantly which ripens in June there is no reason why this splendid tree should not become common in the northern states. Why will not some American city or town make itself famous by planting a long avenue of these trees which, when they have become, like the largest trees in the Arboretum, forty feet high or more and are in bloom will make the town which has planted them famous and attract visitors from the remotest parts of the country.

This the Mountain Cherry of northern Japan (*Yama Jakura*) is the parent of many of the finest Japanese double-flowered Cherry-trees which when well grown are the most beautiful of all flowering trees. They are rarely seen, however, in good condition of any size either in the United States or Europe because the attempt has been made to graft them on European Cherries which now it has been clearly shown are not suited for the purpose. The double-flowered Cherries imported from Japan are grafted on the white-flowered form of *Prunus Lannesiana* which although not very hardy has flowered better this year than ever before in the Arboretum. It is also the parent of several

of the finest double-flowered Cherry-trees. The double-flowered forms of this and of *Prunus serrulata* do not succeed as they come from Japan as they are all grafted on *Prunus Lannesiana* and the bark of that species is thin and is apt to split. Double-flowered trees imported from Japan which have been grafted or budded at the ground level often get on to their own roots and are hardy and permanent but they are shrubs rather than trees. It is evident, in spite of the protest of American and European nurserymen, that all the double-flowered Japanese Cherries must be grafted on the variety *sachalinensis* of *P. serrulata* if large and healthy trees are wanted, and the best plants will be obtained by inserting the grafts at the top of stems six or eight feet high that they may have a vigorous, rough-barked trunk. This means a slow and expensive operation before the trees are ready for sale, and it is probably safe to say that large and healthy double-flowered Japanese Cherry-trees will not soon be common in this country. Two other varieties of *Prunus serrulata*, var. *pubescens* and var. *spontanea*, are well established in the Arboretum and although still small have flowered well this spring. To see how the lovely Spring Cherry of Japan (*P. subhirtella*) can be propagated nurserymen are invited to examine the two plants by the Prince Street entrance to the Superintendent's house at the corner of Centre Street. These were grafted on seedlings of the type plant on January 19, 1907; they were planted in the nursery in the spring of the same year and placed in their present position in the spring of 1919. They show that there is no difficulty in raising good specimens of this plant if nurserymen are willing to give a little attention to them.

Prunus yedoensis has not before flowered as well in the Arboretum as this spring. There is a plant of this species on the right hand side of the Forest Hills entrance, another on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, and a third in the nursery on the top of Peter's Hill. This is the Cherry so generally planted in the parks, cemeteries and streets of Tokyo, and its flowering heralds an annual national holiday decreed by the Emperor. It was believed that over two hundred and fifty thousand trees were growing in the precincts of Tokyo before the destruction of a large part of the city a few years ago by fire and earthquake. The oldest authentically known trees were in the Imperial Botanic Garden at Koishikawa and were planted less than fifty years ago. This Cherry is a quick-growing and apparently short-lived tree with wide-spreading and slightly drooping branches forming a wide flattened head. The bark is pale gray and smooth, becoming darker and somewhat rough on old trunks. The slightly fragrant flowers are produced in clusters of two or several, usually before the leaves but occasionally at the same time, and vary in color from white to pale pink. It is this tree which was presented by the Government of Japan to our Government and is the principal Japanese tree which has been planted in the streets of Washington. This Cherry produces seeds abundantly now in the Arboretum and in Washington, and it ought to be much more generally planted a little further south than Massachusetts where the flower-buds are too often injured by severe winters. It grows perfectly well in New York, and thousands of trees might well find a place in Central Park, where so many of the original plants have disappeared, and in all the regions south of Washington.

Prunus nigra. Among American Plums in the Arboretum *Prunus nigra*, the so-called Canada Plum, is the earliest to bloom, and, although it opened its flowers at the end of last week, is still in fair condition. It is a native of the northern border of the United States from New Brunswick westward, and is distinguished from the more southern *Prunus americana* by its larger and earlier flowers, the blunt teeth of its leaves and by darker and closer bark; the flowers turn pink as they fade. The Canada Plum has produced some excellent seedling forms of garden Plums which are esteemed and largely grown by pomologists. A form of the Canada Plum found growing in Seneca Park, Rochester, New York, near the gorge of the Genesee River, and believed to be a native plant in that region, is when in bloom one of the most beautiful Plum trees in the Arboretum Collection and well worth propagating as a garden plant.

Prunus salicina, better known perhaps as *P. triflora*, flowers only a little later than the Canada Plum, and the flower-buds which completely cover the wide-spreading branches are already opening. This tree is interesting because it is the only native Plum in eastern Asia and the tree from which the so-called Japanese Plums of gardens have been developed.

Prunus dasycarpa. This plant, which is a native of eastern Siberia or Manchuria, is known as the Purple or Black Apricot on account of the dull purple color of the fruit. It has never flowered more abundantly than it has this spring but the flowers are now beginning to fade.

Prunus triloba. Among the flowers of early spring few are more lovely than those of this small Almond from northern China which, in spite of the fact that it has flowered in the Arboretum every spring for the last twenty years, is still very little known, although the form with double flowers (var. *plena*) is a common garden plant in this country and is often successfully forced under glass for winter bloom. The single-flowered plant should be better known. It is a tall shrub of rather open irregular habit of growth. The flowers, which are pure clear pink in color, are produced every year in profusion, and among the shrubs introduced into the Arboretum in the last thirty years none excel the single-flowered form of *P. triloba* in the beauty of their flowers. It can be seen on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road not far below the entrance, and there is a fine plant on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

Amelanchiers. The Shad Bushes, as Amelanchiers are often called because they are supposed to bloom when shad begin to ascend the rivers from the sea, add much in early spring to the beauty of the Arboretum. This genus in North America contains nearly all the species as only one small shrubby species grows on the mountains of central Europe and another in China and Japan. In North America it grows in many forms from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Newfoundland to the Gulf States. Two of the species are trees and the others large or small shrubs, the flowers usually appearing before the leaves or when they are partly grown. They all have handsome flowers, with usually

long white petals and small, dark blue or nearly black, rarely yellow, pome-like fruit open at the top, the flesh of which in most of the species is sweet and edible. The earliest species to bloom, *A. canadensis*, has been for more than a week in flower. This is the largest species of the genus and a tree occasionally growing to the height of sixty feet with a tall trunk eighteen inches in diameter. The leaves begin to unfold as the flowers open and are then covered with silky white hairs, making the whole plant look white at this time of the year. This beautiful tree does not grow naturally nearer Boston than western Massachusetts. It is common in western New York, and the common and often the only species in the southern states in which it grows to the Gulf coast. Owing to an old confusion in determination and names, this fine tree, which was originally described by Linnaeus, has long been rare in gardens, a different plant having usually appeared in them under this name. This is a second tree species, differing from *A. canadensis* in the red color of the young leaves which are destitute or nearly destitute of any hairy covering, and should be called *Amelanchier laevis*; it is a native of the Arboretum and is now in flower. A natural hybrid of the two arborescent species, *A. grandiflora*, is not rare in the woods in the neighborhood of Rochester, New York. It promises to become a tree here and has the largest flowers of any of the Shad Bushes. The flowers of a form of this hybrid (var. *rubescens*) are more or less deeply tinged with rose color and are more beautiful than the flowers of the other species or varieties. *Amelanchier oblongifolia*, which is the largest of the shrubby species, is a common wild plant in the Arboretum and has been planted in considerable numbers along the roads, especially along the Valley Road. It is a vigorous and handsome shrub often ten or fifteen feet high and broad through the branches. It is an inhabitant of moist woods and rocky uplands from New Brunswick to Pennsylvania, Missouri and Minnesota.

There are supposed to be a dozen more American small shrubby species or hybrids growing in the Arboretum, but there is still doubt about the identity of several of them. Some of these are in flower in the Meadow Road Group, and others will be in bloom later. The species of central and southern Europe, *A. ovalis*, is well established in the Arboretum, as are the Japanese *A. asiatica* and its Chinese variety *sinica*. These foreign species bloom later.